

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 to 13 and 15 to 28 as being anticipated by Sunden (US Patent 6,494,693) is traversed. The claims have been amended to require a blood tube to have a section for a pump that has a larger cross-sectional diameter than does the narrow section of the tube. The amendments distinguish Sunden that shows a “pumptube” which is a narrow section of a blood tube that engages a pump. The narrow section of the Sunden pump tube is of a length sufficient to fit into a pump. Sunden does not suggest that sections of a blood be narrow, other than at the pump tube. Sunden teaches away from the blood tube recited in the amended claims by teaching a narrow pump tube section rather than the claimed large diameter pump tube section.

The rejection of claims 4 and 14 as being obvious over Sunden in view of Berend (U.S. Patent No. 3,882,862) is traversed for the same reason as stated above regarding the new limitation for a pump section of the blood tube having a larger passage area than a narrow section of the tube. Claim 1 requires that at least one-half of the length of the claimed blood tube has a narrow inner diameter which is substantially smaller than the diameter at least one end of the tube and to require a second tube end that is large. Berend does not show a tube with two large ends. A blood tube that is narrower for at least one-half of its length is not shown in Berend. Rather, Berend teaches a blood tube having a substantially large inside diameter through most of its length. The only narrow section of the blood tube is in a transition section at its ends.

Berend discloses a “venturi tube 10” that serves as a transition between a connector (cuff 16) and the tubing 12. Berend, column 2, lines 14 to 25.

The rejection of dependent claims 7 and 8 as being obvious over Sunden in view of Raible (US Patent 4,954,055) is traversed. The limitations of claim 7 have been incorporated in the independent claims and claim 7 has been revised.

Sunden and Raible teach opposite approaches to a pump section of a blood tube. Sunden teaches a narrow tube section that engages a pump and Raible teaches a large diameter tube section to engage a pump. Neither patent teaches a narrow section large diameter in addition to a large diameter tube end and a large diameter pump tube section, as is recited in the claims.

New claims 29 to 31 have been added to define the claimed blood tube to make clear that the narrow section need not necessarily include the pump tube section and that the narrow section is at least one-half the length of the entire tube. In contrast, Sunden teaches a blood tube that is only narrow at the pump tube section and does not suggest a narrow tube section beyond the pump tube section. The support for the 20 percent statement in claim 31 is in paragraph 16 of the specification.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Steven Bernard et al
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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By: /Jeffry Nelson/

Jeffry H. Nelson
Reg. No. 30,481

JHN:glf
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100